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REMARKS BY US AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY AT KUMUDINI COMPLEX, MIRZAPUR

MIRZAPUR, SEPTEMBER 14 -- U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty made the following remarks at Kumudini Complex in Mirzapur today:

(Begin Text)

Mr. Rajiv Prasad Saha, Managing Director, Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal Limited, officials from Kumudini Hospital, Kumudini Nursing School and College, Kumudini Women's Medical College, students from Bharateshwari Homes School and members of the press: Assalam-u-Alaikum, Namashkar and good morning.

আজ আমার দিনটি খুব সুন্দরভাবে শুরু হয়েছে। সেজন্য আমি রাজিব প্রসাদ সাহা এবং কুমুদিনী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সকলকে আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

I have heard many people praise the various Kumudini institutions and the important work they do for the community. Today I have seen first hand that this praise is justified. I am moved by the dream of Kumudini's founder, Ranada Prashad Shaha, to serve the poor and the underprivileged. Today, after meeting the Kumudini family -- that is, all those who work at the hospital, the nursing school and college, the medical college and the Bharateshwari Homes -- I believe that Ranada Shaha's dream has been transformed into your dream -- the aspiration to benefit society and serve mankind. The principles that you uphold, the dedication with which you serve, and the hard work that you put in, have improved countless lives and created institutions that make Bangladesh proud.

Two items most impressed me during my visit to Kumudini. First, Kumudini provides excellent health services for free or at greatly subsidized prices. Second, an under-privileged girl accepted at Bharateshwari Homes can dream of a future where she is no longer under-privileged either economically or socially. The linkages among the various Kumudini institutions provide her assurance that with hard work, she will have access to employment opportunities within Kumudini. This is a very significant accomplishment that changes lives for the better.

Since 2005, the U.S. Government has supported Kumudini through Engender Health to provide treatment and rehabilitation to women with complications of obstetric fistula. Services for these women have expanded with the opening of a new ward for fistula care. I am confident that the U.S. Government's partnership with Kumudini will have a very positive impact on many women's lives.

I would like to thank Mr. Rajiv Prasad Saha for inviting me to the Kumudini Complex and for providing the opportunity to see the activities of Kumudini. I would also like to thank you all for the kind hospitality and warmth that I have received today. Kumudini has been and will continue to be a great source of inspiration for many people, and you may count me as one of them.

Thank you.

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** As prepared for delivery*

GR/ 2008